The author was convinced that with artificial respiration properly conducted under the direction of a medical man, the boy's life might have been saved, in the same way as in a case pointed out by D'Arsonval, where a man who had received a current of 4,500 volts, and who had been unconscious for hours, was saved.

The second case was that of an electrical artificer, who by coming carelessly into contact with a transformator and not in the regular current circuit, but near to it fell forward with a cry of pain and was dead. The autopsy showed burns on the arm affected, bloodlessness of the brain, a good deal of edema of the pia mater, a flaccid empty heart, and excessive hemorrhagic edema of the lungs. In this the cause of death was cardiac and not from suffocation. In both cases the wire in question was not protected by insulation. The author points out that in all parts carrying a high tension surrent efficient insulation should be demanded. JELLIFFE.

PERIODIC PARALYSES. G. E. Holtzapple (Journal A. M. A., Oct. 21).

The author refers to the literature of this subject and gives an interesting account of a family of which he had the record of for four generations and had observed for twenty-two years. Seventeen of the members of this family had the typical periodic paralysis, six of them dying in an attack. A number of others were sufferers from migraine. The attacks were of the characteristic type, the severer ones involving all the muscles except those of the face, eyes, tongue, the organs of speech and deglutition, and the rectal and vesical sphincters. Others were more or less permanently crippled by the disease. The pathology of the condition is discussed, the author being inclined to consider it as a vasomotor neurosis affecting the blood supply of the anterior horns, which are supplied almost wholly by the anterior spinal artery. The slow progressive permanent paralysis which occurred late in life in two of the cases reported, he thinks is due to slow degeneration of these horns from the frequent disturbances of nutrition. The paralysis in these cases seems to him to be closely allied to the local paralyses accompanying migraine, and thinking that there might be an active toxin from the gastrointestinal tract at work he made careful urinary examinations in six of the paralytic cases, in three of those suffering from migrane, and in five of the healthy members of the family. The average quantity of urine voided in all the average output of urinary solids appeared to be the same. There was, however, a noticeable difference in the urea elimination in the paralytic individuals and in these directly after the attacks. It appeared that these patients do not excrete the normal quantity of nitrogenous metabolic products. It will require further observations to determine the exact degree of relationship, if any, between the diminished urea excretion and the paralysis. With the idea that the attacks were due to a vasomotor spasm he resolved to try large doses of bromid, preferably of potassium, ʒss, with one or two grains of citrate of caffein repeated in one or two hours. This gave decided relief, and helped to abort the attacks; small doses were never tried. CAMP.

BRAIN INJURIES. D. C. Peyton (Journal A. M. A., Oct. 14).

Peyton points out the indications for operative interference in cases of brain injuries. He holds that surgery is called for when there is evidence of hemorrhage or symptoms of compression, either from hemorrhage, depressed bone, or the presence of a foreign body, and emphasizes his opinion that in cases with symptoms of serious brain injury the danger to the patient of an exploratory opening with the observance of the highest degree of aseptic technic, is infinitely less than the unreasonable delay that is frequently permitted while waiting for definite diagnostic symptoms. He urges the importance of the surgeon watching the symptoms very closely from the beginning until he can assure himself that no injury has occurred within the cranial walls. Two cases are reported, one of gunshot wound with extensive comminution of bone in which the fragments were removed and

the wound cleansed by irrigation with normal salt solution, followed by recovery; and the second, fracture of the base, terminating fatally.

CAMP.

DIONIN. W. H. Snyder, Toledo, Ohio (Journal A. M. A., Nov. 18).

The author says that he has been unable to find any reported experiments bearing on its action on tissues and cells, and cites his own, in which the drug was applied directly to the eye of a rabbit in larger quantities than would be required for an abnormal eye. Sections were made of enucleated eye and the findings noted. He concludes that the action of dionin is purely local, its most marked effects are in eyeballs in which tension is increased, and he believes its entire action can be explained by saying it has some disassociating action on the intercellular cement substance, allowing a transudation of serum from a globe under pressure. Its analgesic effect is explainable by its lessening of tension and by the well known action of the derivatives of opium. He believes that it is only a lymp stimulant secondarily, after the edema the fluid is absorbed as lymph, as it would be in edema from any cause. He reports a case of complete absorption of the iris, lens and capsule under the use of dionin in a case of severe contusion of the eye without penetration. In iritis with adhesions and plus tension, it lessens the tension and permits absorption of the mydriatic with resulting relief of pain and dilation of the pupil. In corneal ulcers, especially of the peripheral type, the repair process begins as soon as the ulcer is cleared. The more recent the inflammation and the higher the tension the better the results from dionin, according to Snyder's experience. In recent cases of corneal opacity he has had good results, but little or no benefit in old central opacities with low or normal tension. He has tried it in conjunctival hemorrhage without special success, the pressure element being evidently lacking. In beginning pannus, his experience has been more satisfactory than with any previous treatment, the lid of course being treated for the cause. In glaucoma he prefers dionin to eserin, relief from pain being marked, due, he thinks, to the mechanical relief from pressure. He early abandoned the use of solutions and now applies the powder directly to the cornea with better results.

CAMP.

MANAGEMENT OF EPILEPSY. Thomas P. Prout (Amer. Med., July 22, 1905).

The author says that the proportion of epileptics in the United States is about one to five hundred. He believes we are now at a time when the known facts regarding epilepsy can be made available and put to the fullest use by every general practitioner. The most important drugs in the treatment of epilepsy are the bromides, their use depending upon the recently established fact that preparations of the bromides locally applied diminish cortical irritability. The author believes that the so-called hypochlorization method of administration, introduced by Toulouse and Richet, is a great advance. This method, briefly, consists in the substitution of sodium bromide for sodium chloride in cooking and at the table, though many patients under this method were found to be particularly susceptible to bromide intoxication. The author says that a preparation of special value in the treatment of epilepsy is bromipin—a 10 per cent compound of bromine in oil of sesame—of value especially because of its non-irritating qualities. Its slightly laxative effect is a distinct advantage in those cases in which constipation is the rule; especially is this condition true of children in many of whom constipation is a very troublesome symptom. Further, if the patient is poorly nourished, bromipin has the qualities of the fats in general in supporting nutrition. It may be emulsified and flavored with peppermint or wintergreen if there should be serious objection to its taste.

CAMP.

THYROID DISEASE IN CALIFORNIA. H. C. Moffit (Journal A. M. A., Sept. 16).

The author writes interestingly on thyroid disease in California. Observation has convinced him that thyroid disease is more common in San Francisco than in many other States, and he has studied the subject by cor-